

# Atlantic World War II battle.

## Allard's 1998 search for the lost ship in one spectacularly illustrated



quest to find the Yorktown  
the other lost ships from the  
battle of the Pacific War

# VAY

The Fourth of June

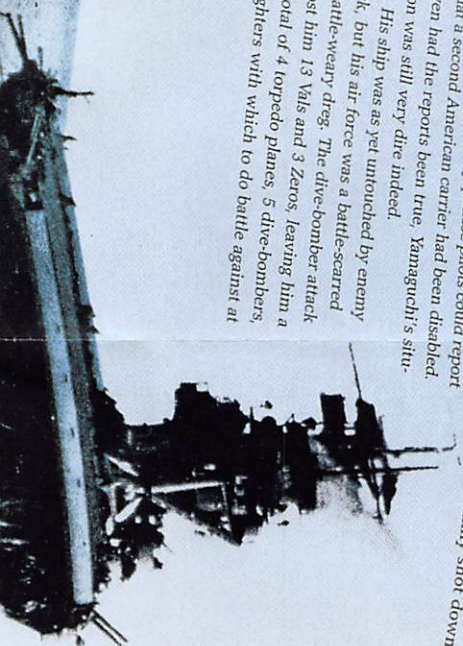
on a railing station. He had to climb over Patterson in order to go for help. By the time the last of the attackers either had been shot down or had turned for home, the Yorktown's deck slanted so badly that its surviving fighters couldn't land. (Four had been shot down.) They headed for the *Enterprise*. Some, like Bill Leonard,

landed just before their fuel ran out.

Two Japanese torpedoes had penetrated the port side of the Yorktown's hull beneath the waterline, jamming the rudder, knocking out or cutting all power connections, and rupturing the port-side fuel tanks. "The hits could not have been better placed," recalled John Greenbacher. "The ship quickly listed to port about 20°. Further listing accumulated at a slower rate, but from the inclinometer on the bridge, it was apparent it was still slowly increasing. First 22°, then 23°, finally very slowly to 26°, where it hung. We could not be sure that it had gone as far as it would go. Up on the bridge, out in the open, there was no sense of panic."

ONLY FIVE KATES AND THREE ZEROS, HALF OF THE *Hiryu*'S SECOND ATTACKING FORCE, returned to their ship. [Lieutenant Tomonaga was almost certainly shot down by Jimmy Thach.] But the Japanese pilots could report that a second American carrier had been disabled. Even had the reports been true, Yamaguchi's situation was still very dire indeed.

His ship was as yet untouched by enemy attack, but his air force was a battle-scarred and battle-weary dreg. The dive-bomber attack had cost him 13 Vals and 3 Zeros, leaving him a grand total of 4 torpedo planes, 5 dive-bombers, and 6 fighters with which to do battle against at



(Above) Within minutes of being struck by two torpedoes, the flight deck into a perilous slope. (Below) The destroyer Balch stages of abandonment. Hanging from the side are the lines it



May 19, 1998

...But 56 years later,  
as former Seaman  
William Surgi looked  
on in amazement,  
explorer Robert  
Ballard brought the  
“Old Lady” back  
from the dead.

*In a strikingly realistic painting,  
the Advanced Tethered Vehicle trails  
its three-mile-long electronic umbilical cord  
and trains its undersea camera on a gaping  
torpedo hole in the sunken Yorktown's port side.*

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